

There are no tridistichate species of *Antedon* in the North Atlantic outside the Caribbean Sea, though they occur in the South Atlantic at Tristan d'Acunha and Ascension and at five stations below 100 fathoms in the Western Pacific and Australasia.

On the other hand, the bidistichate series does not range further south in the Atlantic than 10° S., though it has the same distribution as the tridistichate series in the Pacific. This group is also much more common than the tridistichate group in the Caribbean Sea, especially below 100 fathoms, and ranges to a greater depth.

The range of the genus *Actinometra* both in depth and space is very much more limited than that of *Antedon*. It corresponds very closely with the geographical and bathymetrical ranges of the multibrachiate species of that genus. The northernmost *Actinometra* does not reach 36° N., and the southernmost 38° S., and no *Actinometra* has been obtained with certainty at a greater depth than 533 fathoms; but it may probably extend to 830 fathoms. *Actinometra* is far more extensively developed in the Eastern than in the Western Hemisphere. The ten-armed forms of *Actinometra* which occur in the Caribbean Sea and along the South-American coast represent an entirely different type of the genus from the ten-armed species of the Eastern Hemisphere. Of the multibrachiate species of *Actinometra* the tridistichate type seems to be the more extensively distributed, and not the bidistichate one, as in the case of *Antedon*.

The number of described living Comatulid species is now 180; of these the 'Challenger' obtained 110, 88 being new to science and 22 previously known.

The geographical and bathymetrical limitation of the different groups indicated by the author furnishes evidence of the direct alliance and the genetic relations of the component members of the groups in a manner that comparative anatomy alone is unable to demonstrate half so forcibly or conclusively.

The monograph is illustrated by seventy magnificent plates, which for general fidelity and careful representation of detail are worthy of the highest praise. There is also an excellent index, which forms in itself a measure of the completeness and general utility of the Report.

It is no mere form of words to say that this Report will stand as a monument of patient and honest work; and we offer to the author our congratulations on having produced a memoir upon which he may look back with satisfaction and his fellow-countrymen with pride.

*Tabular List of all the Australian Birds at present known to the Author, showing the Distribution of the Species over the Continent of Australia and adjacent Islands.* By E. P. RAMSAY, LL.D., &c., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Pp. 38, Map. 4to. Sydney, 1888.

THE object of this Catalogue is to afford ornithologists a general

and authentic epitome of the distribution of Australian birds over the continent and adjacent islands. The well-known ornithological studies of the Author, extending over the last thirty years, and his position as Curator of the Australian Museum, have afforded him particular and exceptional opportunities of acquiring the information necessary for the preparation of such a Catalogue. A visit paid to the principal European museums whilst acting as Fishery Commissioner for New South Wales in London, during the International Fisheries Exhibition, enabled Dr. Ramsay to exchange views with the more eminent European ornithologists on the vexed and complicated question of synonymy.

The arrangement of the present work has been ordered with the view of affording the fullest amount of information in a limited space. In this difficult task the Author has succeeded, it must be admitted, with much success. No particular classification has been followed, so says the preface; but in this the Author does himself an injustice, for without adopting subdivisions which would tend to thwart the main objects of the work, the genera are placed in natural order.

Each right-hand page is arranged in tabular form, the species being numbered in serial order. From this we learn that 701 species of birds are known from all Australia, including the south coast of New Guinea, but exclusive of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. In 1865, at the publication of Gould's 'Handbook,' 672 species had been recorded, but out of these only one strictly new genus had been added.

The first column of the tabular matter shows the presence or absence of the species in the Australian Museum, with this gratifying result, that 630 are there preserved. The second column affords a reference to the most easily accessible description of the bird in question, usually Gould's 'Handbook.' The remaining columns then show geographical distribution; but as considerable territorial change has taken place since 1865, and as the names of the Australian provinces convey but an indifferent idea of the distribution of a species, the Author has given "the particular localities in which most of our large collections have been made, purposely to show the spread of certain species." The boundaries of the present and the positions of other localities are shown on a sketch-map. In the distribution-columns numerals are used as the means of registration instead of the usual asterisks. The left-hand page is always devoted to notes and references, the latter being connected with the species by a running number. Separate tables are given for Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands.

We look forward with great pleasure to the appearance of a general work on the birds of Australia by the same author, which we believe has been in preparation for some time, and of which the present Catalogue is only a forerunner.

In conclusion we heartily congratulate Dr. Ramsay on the appearance of his useful and complete work.